

# COUNTY COMMISSIONERS *of* CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

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SARA B. VISINTAINER  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN W. COLE  
PRESIDENT

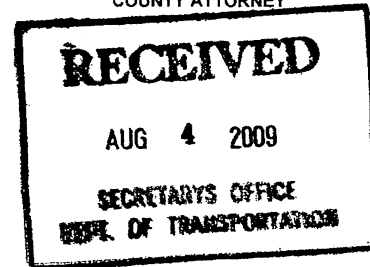
RICHARD P. BARTON  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JEFFERSON L. GHRIST  
ROADS BOARD CHAIR

ERNEST A. CROFOOT  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

July 31, 2009

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley  
Acting Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
P.O. Box 548  
Hanover, Maryland 21076



Dear Acting Secretary Swaim-Staley:

The County Commissioners of Caroline County wish to provide you with a list of our FY2010 transportation priorities and concerns in advance of our annual meeting this fall.

**Maryland Route 404 – Continued Widening / Dualization:** The improvement of this major Eastern Shore artery remains the County's highest priority. Much progress has been made in recent years, but as our many letters on this subject have noted, this highway remains one of the most dangerous in the area. We would ask that the State strongly advocate for the inclusion of Route 404 in the federal Surface Transportation Act, so that the project can receive predictable funding from the federal government.

**Dover Bridge:** The Commissioners wish to see the complete replacement of this bridge. The bridge has a history of getting stuck in either the open or closed position, and its very narrow lanes make it difficult for trucks to safely pass.

**Route 480 Improvements:** The County requests several improvements to Maryland Route 480, which are necessary because of the increased traffic volume expected with the opening of the Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill next year. These requests are the result of a series of meetings held by a Traffic and Public Safety Focus Group, which included municipal and County elected officials, staff from our local transportation, planning, public safety, and engineering departments, and members of the public. One of the Focus Group's principal concerns, the need for a traffic circle at Rt. 480 and River Road, has been addressed. However, additional improvements we feel would increase safety in this area include:

- Installation of a traffic signal at Central Avenue and Rt. 480, and improvement of the design of the intersection of Central Avenue, including the construction of turn lanes;
- Continuation of the 40 mph speed limit from Ridgely, on Rt. 480, past the River Road intersection; and
- Installation of signage in state right of ways directing landfill traffic to the appropriate routes and entrances.

In closing, we wish to thank you and your staff for your past attention to Caroline County issues, for the many projects your Department has completed in our county. We look forward to discussing these issues with you in November.

Sincerely,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
John W. Cole, President

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